

Union Calendar No. 135

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2692

[Report No. 108-245]

To authorize appropriations for activities under the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 for fiscal years 2004 through 2006, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan (for himself and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

AUGUST 4, 2003

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on July 10, 2003]

A BILL

To authorize appropriations for activities under the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 for fiscal years 2004 through 2006, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “United States Fire Ad-*
 3 *ministration Authorization Act of 2003”.*

4 **SEC. 2. UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATOR.**

5 *Notwithstanding section 1513 of the Homeland Secu-*
 6 *rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 553), the Administrator of the*
 7 *United States Fire Administration shall continue to be ap-*
 8 *pointed and compensated as provided under section 5(b) of*
 9 *the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15*
 10 *U.S.C. 2204(b)).*

11 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER STRAT-**
 12 **EGY.**

13 *Section 30 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control*
 14 *Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2226) is amended—*

15 *(1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before*
 16 *“The Director, acting”; and*

17 *(2) by adding at the end the following new sub-*
 18 *section:*

19 “(b) **NATIONAL RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER**
 20 **STRATEGY.**—*The Administrator shall develop and imple-*
 21 *ment a strategy for promoting the installation and use of*
 22 *residential fire sprinklers. The strategy shall include—*

23 *“(1) advocacy and informational support to rel-*
 24 *evant stakeholders, including builders, insurers, and*
 25 *State and local decisionmakers;*

1 “(2) promotion of residential sprinklers in resi-
2 dences supported by the Federal Government;

3 “(3) a particular focus on residences—

4 “(A) at high risk to fire hazards; and

5 “(B) with occupants at high risk to fire
6 hazards, such as senior citizens and persons with
7 disabilities; and

8 “(4) a particular focus on localized fire suppres-
9 sion in high-risk areas of residences.”.

10 **SEC. 4. SUPPORT FOR TRAINING TO FIGHT MARITIME**
11 **FIRES.**

12 Subsection (b)(3)(B) of the first section 33 of the Fed-
13 eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.
14 2229(b)(3)(B)) is amended by inserting “maritime fire-
15 fighting,” after “arson prevention and detection,”.

16 **SEC. 5. FIREFIGHTER ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROGRAM.**

17 The first section 33 of the Federal Fire Prevention and
18 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229) is amended—

19 (1) by striking “Director” each place it appears
20 and inserting “Administrator”;

21 (2) by amending subsection (b)(2) to read as fol-
22 lows:

23 “(2) *ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE.*—The Ad-
24 ministrator shall establish specific criteria for the se-
25 lection of recipients of assistance under this section

1 and shall provide grant-writing assistance to appli-
 2 cants.”; and

3 (3) in subsection (e)(2), by striking “operate the
 4 office established under subsection (b)(2) and”.

5 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 Section 17(g)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and
 7 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)(1)) is amended by
 8 striking “to carry out the purposes” and all that follows
 9 through the end of subparagraph (K) and inserting “to the
 10 Administrator to carry out the purposes of this Act, other
 11 than the firefighter assistance program under section 33—

12 “(A) \$58,928,000 for fiscal year 2004;

13 “(B) \$60,700,000 for fiscal year 2005; and

14 “(C) \$62,520,000 for fiscal year 2006.”.

15 **SEC. 7. COURSES AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE.**

16 Section 7(l) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Con-
 17 trol Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(l)) is amended by adding
 18 at the end the following: “The Superintendent shall offer,
 19 at the Academy and at other sites, courses and training
 20 assistance as necessary to accommodate all geographic re-
 21 gions and needs of career and volunteer firefighters.”.

22 **SEC. 8. NEW FIREFIGHTING TECHNOLOGY.**

23 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 8 of the Federal Fire Pre-
 24 vention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2207) is
 25 amended—

1 (1) *by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection*
2 *(f); and*

3 (2) *by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-*
4 *lowing:*

5 “(e) *DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.—*

6 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—In addition to, or as part of,*
7 *the program conducted under subsection (a), the Ad-*
8 *ministrator, in consultation with the National Insti-*
9 *tute of Standards and Technology, the Inter-Agency*
10 *Board for Equipment Standardization and Inter-*
11 *Operability, national voluntary consensus standards*
12 *development organizations, interested Federal, State,*
13 *and local agencies, and other interested parties,*
14 *shall—*

15 “(A) *develop new, and utilize existing,*
16 *measurement techniques and testing methodolo-*
17 *gies for evaluating new firefighting technologies,*
18 *including—*

19 “(i) *personal protection equipment;*

20 “(ii) *devices for advance warning of*
21 *extreme hazard;*

22 “(iii) *equipment for enhanced vision;*

23 “(iv) *devices to locate victims, fire-*
24 *fighters, and other rescue personnel in*
25 *above-ground and below-ground structures;*

1 “(v) equipment and methods to provide
2 information for incident command, includ-
3 ing the monitoring and reporting of indi-
4 vidual personnel welfare;

5 “(vi) equipment and methods for train-
6 ing, especially for virtual reality training;
7 and

8 “(vii) robotics and other remote-con-
9 trolled devices;

10 “(B) evaluate the compatibility of new
11 equipment and technology with existing fire-
12 fighting technology; and

13 “(C) support the development of new vol-
14 untary consensus standards through national
15 voluntary consensus standards organizations for
16 new firefighting technologies based on techniques
17 and methodologies described in subparagraph
18 (A).

19 “(2) STANDARDS FOR NEW EQUIPMENT.—(A)
20 *The Administrator shall, by regulation, require that*
21 *new equipment or systems purchased through the as-*
22 *sistance program established by section 33 meet or ex-*
23 *ceed applicable voluntary consensus standards for*
24 *such equipment or systems for which applicable vol-*
25 *untary consensus standards have been established. The*

1 *Administrator may waive the requirement under this*
2 *subparagraph with respect to specific standards.*

3 *“(B) If an applicant for a grant under section*
4 *33 proposes to purchase, with assistance provided*
5 *under the grant, new equipment or systems that do*
6 *not meet or exceed applicable voluntary consensus*
7 *standards, the applicant shall include in the applica-*
8 *tion an explanation of why such equipment or sys-*
9 *tems will serve the needs of the applicant better than*
10 *equipment or systems that do meet or exceed such*
11 *standards.*

12 *“(C) In making a determination whether or not*
13 *to waive the requirement under subparagraph (A)*
14 *with respect to a specific standard, the Administrator*
15 *shall, to the greatest extent practicable—*

16 *“(i) consult with grant applicants and*
17 *other members of the fire services regarding the*
18 *impact on fire departments of the requirement to*
19 *meet or exceed the specific standard;*

20 *“(ii) take into consideration the explanation*
21 *provided by the applicant under subparagraph*
22 *(B); and*

23 *“(iii) seek to minimize the impact of the re-*
24 *quirement to meet or exceed the specific standard*

3 “(D) Applicants that apply for a grant under
4 the terms of subparagraph (B) may include a second
5 grant request in the application to be considered by
6 the Administrator in the event that the Administrator
7 does not approve the primary grant request on the
8 grounds of the equipment not meeting applicable vol-
9 untary consensus standards.”.

(b) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 17 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

13 “(i) *DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.*—In addi-
14 tion to sums otherwise authorized under this Act, there are
15 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry
16 out section 8(e)—

17 “(1) \$2,200,000 for fiscal year 2004;

18 “(2) \$2,250,000 for fiscal year 2005; and

19 “(3) \$2,300,000 for fiscal year 2006.”.

20 *SEC. 9. COORDINATION OF RESPONSE TO NATIONAL EMER-*
21 *GENCY.*

22 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 10 of the Federal Fire Pre-
23 vention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2209) is
24 amended—

1 (1) *by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection*
2 *(c); and*

3 (2) *by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-*
4 *lowing:*

5 “(b) *MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS.—*

6 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, after*
7 *consultation with the Director of the Federal Emer-*
8 *gency Management Agency, shall provide technical as-*
9 *sistance and training to State and local fire service*
10 *officials to establish nationwide and State mutual aid*
11 *systems for dealing with national emergencies that—*

12 “(A) *include threat assessment and equip-*
13 *ment deployment strategies;*

14 “(B) *include means of collecting asset and*
15 *resource information to provide accurate and*
16 *timely data for regional deployment; and*

17 “(C) *are consistent with the Federal Emer-*
18 *gency Management Agency’s Federal Response*
19 *Plan.*

20 “(2) *MODEL MUTUAL AID PLANS.—The Adminis-*
21 *trator, in consultation with the Director of the Fed-*
22 *eral Emergency Management Agency, shall develop*
23 *and make available to State and local fire service offi-*
24 *cial model mutual aid plans for both intrastate and*
25 *interstate assistance.”.*

1 (b) *REPORT ON STRATEGIC NEEDS.*—Within 90 days
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
3 of the United States Fire Administration shall report to
4 the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
5 portation and the House of Representatives Committee on
6 Science on the need for a strategy concerning deployment
7 of volunteers and emergency response personnel (as defined
8 in section 6 of the Firefighters’ Safety Study Act (15 U.S.C.
9 2223e), including a national credentialing system, in the
10 event of a national emergency.

11 (c) *UPDATE OF FEDERAL RESPONSE PLAN.*—Within
12 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Direc-
13 tor of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall—

14 (1) revise that Agency’s Federal Response Plan
15 to incorporate plans for responding to terrorist at-
16 tacks, particularly in urban areas, including fire de-
17 tection and suppression and related emergency serv-
18 ices; and

19 (2) transmit a report to the Senate Committee
20 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the
21 House of Representatives Committee on Science de-
22 scribing the action taken to comply with paragraph
23 (1).

1 **SEC. 10. TRAINING.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 7(d)(1) of the Federal Fire
3 *Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1))*
4 *is amended—*

5 (1) *by striking “and” after the semicolon in sub-*
6 *paragraph (E);*

7 (2) *by redesignating subparagraph (F) as sub-*
8 *paragraph (N); and*

9 (3) *by inserting after subparagraph (E) the fol-*
10 *lowing:*

11 “(F) *strategies for building collapse rescue;*

12 “(G) *the use of technology in response to*
13 *fires, including terrorist incidents and other na-*
14 *tional emergencies;*

15 “(H) *response, tactics, and strategies for*
16 *dealing with terrorist-caused national catas-*
17 *trophes;*

18 “(I) *use of and familiarity with the Federal*
19 *Emergency Management Agency’s Federal Re-*
20 *sponse Plan;*

21 “(J) *leadership and strategic skills, includ-*
22 *ing integrated management systems operations*
23 *and integrated response;*

24 “(K) *applying new technology and devel-*
25 *oping strategies and tactics for fighting forest*
26 *fires;*

1 “(L) integrating terrorism response agencies
2 into the national terrorism incident response
3 system;

4 “(M) response tactics and strategies for
5 fighting fires at United States ports, including
6 fires on the water and aboard vessels; and”.

7 (b) *CONSULTATION ON FIRE ACADEMY CLASSES.*—The
8 Superintendent of the National Fire Academy may consult
9 with other Federal, State, and local agency officials in de-
10 veloping curricula for classes offered by the Academy.

11 (c) *COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS TO AVOID*
12 *DUPLICATION.*—The Administrator of the United States
13 Fire Administration shall, where appropriate, coordinate
14 training provided under section 7(d)(1) of the Federal Fire
15 Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1))
16 with the heads of other Federal agencies—

17 (1) to ensure that such training does not dupli-
18 cate existing courses available to fire service per-
19 sonnel; and

20 (2) to establish a mechanism for eliminating du-
21 plicative training programs.

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